

MOTO: Members On Their Own

In January a group of members of the MOTO group enjoyed coffee and cakes at Simpson's, Fordham, and in February we were fortunate to have a dry(ish) day to go on the Snowdrop walk at Anglesey Abbey; this was followed by lunch at the White Swan, Quy.

On 27th March we will be visiting Chippenham Park to see the daffodils and other spring flowers and shrubs, meeting at the café at 12.00 – lunch optional! There is a £10 entry fee (cash only).

A date for your diary – on 18th June we will once again be joining the Garden Group on a visit to Porter's Lodge, Cavenham.

Further details of these events will be sent to those on my MOTO mailing list – if you wish to be added to this list, please let me know.

Rosemary Foreman

BRUNCH

The February group was a lively occasion. Thanks to all who attended.

Next get together will be 12th March, then 9th April and 14th May.

After consideration I prefer to remain at the Stable. They are very tolerant with our flexible numbers!

Judy Herridge

WINGS, WHEELS & WATER

**The April meeting and all subsequent meetings
will be held at the Racing Centre**

14 April: John Wallace - Vehicles & their influences in wartime

12 May: David Soanes - .the 80th anniversary of D-Day

David Soanes, Tim Young



From the Chair

Dear Members

YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!!!

Just before Christmas I put out a plea for you to give some thought regarding the 2025 AGM, and the fact that several new committee members will be needed for the U3A to still function.

One member has been co-opted to fill a vacancy due to retirement. Another member has indicated he is willing to stand for election,

BUT WE NEED MORE OF YOU.

Officer positions are decided by the committee after the AGM, so we still need candidates to come forward who would be willing to take on roles such as Secretary, Treasurer and Chair, without which we cannot function. Please don't leave it too long before approaching one of us for more information.

In addition, we will also need a Speaker Secretary, this is not necessarily a committee role, but this person will need to liaise with the committee. Although speakers for the rest of the year have already been engaged, David Soanes will be stepping down soon, so now would be an ideal time to work alongside him. Please contact David or me if you feel this person is you.

You will find important details of some Venue Changes in this newsletter, together with further details of outings and booking forms.

Here's hoping the current spell of fine weather heralds a sunny Spring!

Best wishes

Kath Gifkins (Chair)

GARDEN GROUP

So far no one has expressed an interest in running the group, so it looks as if come October this popular group will no longer be active. We are always willing to help anyone who feels they would like to give it a go.

Please note that from April we will be meeting in the Moller Room at the Racing Centre in Fred Archer Way.

At our first meeting there on April 16th Nigel Start will speak about Poisonous Plants in Your Garden.

We will hold a plant sale on May 21st, when we will also have the booking forms for trips to Porters Lodge on June 18th and The Belton Estate, House and Gardens on August 20th.

Kath Gifkins & Rosemary Foreman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Paper copies of the booking forms are available on request and as numbers are limited a deposit is required to secure your place on either trip

Summer Outing – July 3rd: £35 per person

A coach trip to the lovely market town of **Stamford** with free time for shopping, lunch and maybe a self-guided walk. A map of the town will be available. After lunch we will take the short journey **to Rutland Water** for a 45-minute boat trip on the Rutland Belle, before returning home.

Thursford Christmas Spectacular: December 4th

The price for this will depend on numbers and will be £70-£75pp. This is a matinee, with seats reserved in the central raised area. We have also arranged for multiple coach pick-up points (again subject to numbers).

MUSIC APPRECIATION

March 21st: Mike will present “Three in a Bar” - The Waltz and other forms.

April 18th: Judy will present “Tempo” – a selection of compositions in a variety of different speeds and character.

May 16th, Richard will present “Music from Across the Pond” – pieces by 20th century American composers.

All U3A members are welcome to join us at the Racing Centre.
Richard Unwin

ART APPRECIATION

The next visit is arranged for 1 April and will be to Gainsborough’s House in Sudbury.

Gainsborough’s House has been renovated and improved., It is a Grade I-listed eighteenth-century Merchant house and its historic garden and it now has impressive new exhibition galleries, study areas and visitor facilities. It will certainly repay the time spent on a visit.

for Anna Smith

WALKING

At last we have some warmer weather and the sun is actually shining – let’s hope it continues!

On 2nd April, John will be leading the walk round the Little Thurlow area. The meeting point will be at the Recreation field at Little Thurlow, on the B1061 travelling south on the left hand side just past the junction of the Withersfield /Bury St Edmunds roads - Post Code CB9 7L J. It’s mostly good footpaths and the walk is about 1hr 40 minutes. Lunch afterwards (hopefully!) will be at The Bull, Burrough Green.

Walk on 7th May – to be advised.

Rosemary Foreman

CRAFT, COOK-OFF & COFFEE

Important information for all present and future members. Starting with our April meeting (8th April) we will be meeting at the Racing Centre at our normal time (10.30 – 12.30).

Crafts and modelling will, as previously, start at 10.30 but we are currently discussing how we can embrace a wider range of crafts within this session. We might try to have a demonstration of, for example lacemaking, specific knitting techniques etc, or possibly invite new members in to demonstrate their own particular skills. Keep your eyes open for further information.

Cook-off continues to be a source of interesting experiments with a new recipe to try each month and varying degrees of success; some spectacular, few failures! We are all learning new things and widening our repertoires

Stephanie Ellington

HISTORY

Our first meeting at the Racing Centre went well but I have asked the Centre to set out chairs in the theatre formation as the tables seemed to fill the room.

Please make sure you pay the £1.50 as you enter each time as we were £3.00 short last month.

I am considering a personal microphone to improve the experience at the meetings.

4th April the topic will be the History of the East India Company.

2nd May will be the History of Glassmaking.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact me by email niddy198@gmail.com if you need to.

Niddy Walpole

IMPORTANT NOTICE * IMPORTANT NOTICE

There are several venue changes for meetings from April onwards. Check website and calendar for changes affecting groups that you attend.

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS AT EXNING ROAD CLUB
AFTER 31 MARCH**

As we are now holding more meetings in the town centre, you may be concerned about car parking. The following may be helpful:

If you wish to use the the Catholic Church Car Park for meetings held in the Parish Hall, e.g. Speaker Meetings, you will need a permit which costs £5.00 and is valid for one year. Alternatively, Waitrose is next door and has two hours free parking.

The Church also has a 'Parishioners Permit' which costs £20.00 per year and allows you to use their car park at any time on any day, (subject to church purposes), for up to 3 hours. This may be of interest to those attending meetings at the Racing Centre. You do not need to be a member of the church congregation. Permits can be purchased from the Parish Office and must be displayed when parking your car.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing Group missed our meeting in February due to members being unable to attend, but we're hoping for a good turn-out in March with us all being inspired to write, by the coming of Spring.

We will have members returning who haven't been able to come along for the last few months, and our new member, Rosemary, who we didn't frighten too much in January!

The group are all friendly, helpful and can offer constructive advice, should you want it.

We are only a small group and still have space if any other members fancy trying their hand at writing. It can be relaxing, cathartic, enjoyable and frustrating!

***We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm,
at Brampton Manor.***

Sarah MacManus

APRIL 2025

GROUP MEETINGS

DAY/DATE	TIME	GROUP	VENUE
Tuesday 1	14:30	Art Appreciation	Gallery visit to Gainsborough's House
Wednesday 2	10:30	Walking Group	See Website
	14:30	Antiques	The Racing Centre
Friday 4	14:30	History	The Racing Centre
Monday 7	14:00	Bridge	Brampton Manor Care Hm
	14:30	Camera Group	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 8	10:30	Model Making, Craft	The Racing Centre
	11:15	Coffee & Cook Off	The Racing Centre
	14:30	Discussion	The Racing Centre
Wednesday 9	12:00	Brunch Meeting	The Stable Cafe
Thursday 10	10:30	Carpet Bowls	The Racing Centre
Friday 11	10:30	Family History	Memorial Hall, Newmarket
Monday 14	10:00	Executive Committee	-
	10:30	Wings Wheels Water	The Racing Centre
	14:30	Scrabble	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 15	14:00	Creative Writing	Brampton Manor Care Hm
Wednesday 16	14:30	Garden Group	The Racing Centre
Friday 18	-	Music Appreciation	No Meeting
Monday 21	-	Bridge	No Meeting
Tuesday 22	14:00	Portrait Group	Ashley Pavilion
	14:00	Rummikub	Brampton Manor Care Hm
Thursday 24	10:30	Carpet Bowls	The Racing Centre
Friday 25	14:30	Realm of Books	The Racing Centre
Monday 28	14:30	Speaker Meeting	Catholic Parish Church Hall
-	Note: MOTO Group - see Website		

MAY 2025

GROUP MEETINGS

DAY/DATE	TIME	GROUP	VENUE
Friday 2	14:30	History	The Racing Centre
Monday 5	-	Bridge	No Meeting
	-	Camera Group	No Meeting
Tuesday 6	14:30	Art Appreciation	The Racing Centre
Wednesday 7	10:30	Walking Group	See Website
	14:30	Antiques	The Racing Centre
Thursday 8	10:30	Carpet Bowls	The Racing Centre
Friday 9	10:30	Family History	Memorial Hall, Newmarket
Monday 12	10:30	Wings Wheels Water	The Racing Centre
	14:30	Scrabble	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 13	10:30	Model Making & Craft	The Racing Centre
	11:15	Coffee & Cook Off	The Racing Centre
	14:30	Discussion	The Racing Centre
Wednesday 14	12:00	Brunch Meeting	The Stable Cafe
Friday 16	14:30	Music Appreciation	The Racing Centre
Monday 19	10:00	Executive Committee	-
	14:00	Bridge	Brampton Manor Care Hm
	14:00	Speaker Meeting	Catholic Parish Church Hall
Tuesday 20	14:00	Creative Writing	Brampton Manor Care Hm
Wednesday 21	14:30	Garden Group	The Racing Centre
Thursday 22	10:30	Carpet Bowls	The Racing Centre
Friday 23	14:30	Realm of Books	The Racing Centre
Tuesday 27	14:00	Portrait Group	Ashley Pavilion
	14:00	Rummikub	Brampton Manor Care Hm
-	Note: MOTO Group - see Website		